

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

OF THE

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE
SONS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

PROPOSED MAY 1, 1893,

AND THE

DRAFT OF A REVISED CONSTITUTION,

PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE ON
REVISION, APPOINTED IN PURSUANCE
OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE ANNUAL
CONGRESS OF THE NATIONAL SO-
CIETY, APRIL 30TH, 1892. . . .

May 8, 1893.

E-8-
A13
1893⁵²

BY HARRIS

JUN 18 1914





TO THE CONGRESS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION :

The Committee on Revision of the Constitution, appointed in pursuance of the resolution of the Annual Congress of this Society, held April 30, 1892, have the honor to report : That upon March 21 they agreed upon a number of amendments and prepared the draft of a revised Constitution, which was duly promulgated by the Secretary General to the members of the Congress ; that, upon May 1, 1893, at the Annual Congress, held pro forma in the city of New York, to comply with the law of the Society, a number of additional amendments were submitted by various State Societies and members of the Congress, which were, by vote, referred to the Committee on Revision of the Constitution, to be reported back to the Congress with the Committee's own recommendations ; and that this Committee, in order to simplify the work of the Congress, has considered and carefully digested the various amendments, and has accepted several of them

as its own, either in substance or verbatim, and have incorporated them in a revised draft of the Constitution, which is now hereby submitted in lieu of the Committee's previous report. The Committee proposes the amendments indicated in its following report and will move their adoption at the adjourned Congress of the National Society, to be held at Chicago, June 16, 1893. All of the amendments offered May 1, 1893, are appended hereto, verbatim, for such action as the Congress may deem proper to take in the premises.

Very respectfully,

HORACE PORTER,

President General.

HENRY HALL,

A. W. GREELY, U. S. A.,

GEO. BROWN GOODE, Ph. D.,

JOHN WHITEHEAD,

JAMES C. CRESAP, U. S. N.,

} *Committee.*



CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

OF THE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

[New readings and additions are indicated by italics. The words and sentences, which it is proposed to drop out entirely, are enclosed in brackets.]

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

The Name of this Society shall be "The Sons of the American Revolution."

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS.

[The objects of this Society are, to perpetuate the memory and the spirit of the men who achieved American Independence, by the encouragement of historical research in relation to the Revolution and the publication of its results, the preservation of documents and relics, and of the records of the individual services of Revolutionary soldiers and patriots, and the promotion of celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries; to carry out the injunction of Washington in his farewell address to the American people, "to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge," thus developing an enlightened public opinion, and affording to young and old such advantages as shall develop in them the largest

capacity for performing the duties of American citizens; to cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom; to foster true patriotism and love of country; and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.]

The objects of this Society shall be to perpetuate the memory of the men, who, by their services or sacrifices during the War of the American Revolution, achieved the Independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the War, as well as documents, relics and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the War; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution of our Country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

[SECTION 1.—Any man is eligible for membership, who is of the age of twenty-one years, and who is descended from an ancestor who, with unfailing loyalty, rendered material aid to the cause of American Independence, as a soldier or as a seaman, or a civil officer in one of the several Colonies or States, or of the United Colonies or States, or as a recognized patriot; provided that he shall be found worthy.]

SECTION 1.—Any man shall be eligible to membership in this Society, who, being of the age of 21 years or over, and a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor, who was at all times unfailing in his loyalty

and rendered actual service in the cause of American Independence, either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman or minute man, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress or of any one of the several Colonies or States; or as a Signer of the Declaration of Independence; or as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence; or as a member of any Continental, Provincial, or Colonial Congress or Legislature; or as a civil officer, either of one of the Colonies or States or of the national government; or as a recognized patriot, who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain.

SECTION 2.—Applications for membership shall be made to any State Society, in duplicate, upon blank forms prescribed by the General Board of Managers, and shall in each case set forth the name, occupation and residence of the applicant, his line of descent, and the name, residence and services of his ancestor or ancestors in the Revolution, from whom he derives eligibility. The applicant shall make oath that the statements of his application are true, to the best of his knowledge and belief. Upon the approval of an application by the State Society, to which it is made, one copy shall be transmitted to the Registrar General of the National Society, who shall examine further the eligibility of the applicant. If satisfied that the member is eligible, he shall approve the application. In case he deems the proof insufficient, he shall report the fact to a Board of Review, composed of the Registrar General, Secretary General and Historian General, who may return the application for correction. The decision of this Board shall be final in all such cases. No election of a new member shall be valid, unless his eligibility shall be approved by the Registrar General or the Board of Review.

[SECTION 2.—For the purpose of making more nearly perfect the records of our Revolutionary ancestors and their descendants, any woman of Revolutionary ancestry may file a record of her ancestor's services and of her line of descent with any Registrar, who shall send a duplicate to the Registrar General.]

SECTION 3.—A State Society may provide for life memberships by the payment into its treasury of a sum, in commutation of annual dues, not less than fifty dollars.

SECTION 4.—Any [person] man shall be eligible to honorary membership, subject to the [limitations as to age and descent established] conditions of eligibility provided in the case of active members.

[SECTION 4.—The National Society shall embrace all the members of the Societies of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION now existing, or which may be established under this Constitution. Such Societies shall regulate all matters relating to their own affairs, shall judge of the qualifications of their members, and of those proposed for membership, subject to the provisions of this Constitution.]

SECTION 5.—The official designation of the members of the Society of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION shall be "Compatriots."

ARTICLE IV.

NATIONAL AND STATE SOCIETIES.

SECTION 1.—The National Society shall embrace all the members of the State Societies of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, now existing or which may hereafter be established under this Constitution.

SECTION 2.—Whenever in any State or Territory, in which a State Society does not exist, or in which a State Society has become inactive or failed for two years to pay its annual dues to the National Society, fifteen or more persons, duly qualified for membership in this Society, may associate themselves as a State Society of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, and organize in accordance with this Constitution, they may be admitted by the General Board of Managers to the National Society as "The————— Society of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION," and shall thereafter have exclusive local jurisdiction in the State or Territory or in the District in which they are organized, subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

SECTION 3.—Each State Society shall judge of the qualifications of its members and of those proposed for membership, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, and shall regulate all matters pertaining to its own affairs. It shall have authority to establish local chapters within its own jurisdiction and to endow the chapters with such power as it may deem proper, not inconsistent with this Constitution. It shall have authority, after due notice and impartial trial, to expel any member, who, by conduct unbecoming a gentleman and a man of honor, shall render himself unworthy to remain a member of the Society.

SECTION 4.—Each State Society shall submit to the Annual Congress of the National Society a report, setting forth by name the additions, transfers, and deaths, and any other changes in the membership and progress of the State Society during the preceding year, and make such suggestions, as it shall deem proper, for the promotion of the objects of the whole order.

SECTION 5.—Whenever a member in good standing in his Society, changes his residence from the jurisdiction of the State Society of which he is a member, to that of another, he shall be entitled, if he so elects, to a certificate of honorable demission from his own State Society, in order that he may be transferred to the State Society to whose jurisdiction he has changed his residence, provided, that his membership shall continue in the former until he shall have been elected a member of the latter. Each State Society shall, however, retain full control of the admission of members by transfer.

SECTION 6.—Wherever the word "State" occurs in this Constitution, it shall be held to include within its meaning the District of Columbia and the Territories of the United States.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS AND MANAGERS.

SECTION 1.—The General Officers of the National Society shall be a President General, [three Honorary Vice Presidents General], five Vice Presidents General, a Secretary General, Treasurer General, Registrar General, Historian General, [Surgeon General], and Chaplain General, who shall be elected by ballot by a vote of the majority of the

members present at the annual meeting *of the Congress* of the National Society, and shall hold office for one year and until their successors shall be elected, [and who together with the Presidents of the State Societies, *ex-officio*, shall constitute a general Board of Managers, of which Board seven shall constitute a quorum.]

SECTION 2.—The General Officers, together with the Presidents of the State Societies ex-officio, shall constitute the General Board of Managers of the National Society, which Board shall have authority to adopt and promulgate the By-Laws of the National Society, to prescribe the duties of the General Officers, to provide the seal, to designate and make regulations for the issue of the insignia, and to transact the general business of the National Society during the intervals between the sessions of the Congress. Meetings of the General Board may be held, after not less than ten days notice, at the call of the President General, or, in case of his absence or inability, at the call of the senior Vice President General, certified by the Secretary General. Meetings shall be called at the request of seven members. At all such meetings, seven shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 3.—An Executive Committee of seven, of whom the President General shall be the Chairman, may be elected by the Board of Managers, which Committee shall, in the interim between the meetings of the Board, transact such business as shall be delegated to it by the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE VI.

DUES.

Each State Society shall pay annually to the Treasurer General *to defray the expenses of the National Society* [twenty-five] *fifty* cents for each active member thereof. All such dues shall be paid on or before [the opening of each annual meeting of the National Society, in order to secure repre-

sentation therein] *the first day of April in each year, for the ensuing year, in order to secure representation in the Congress of the National Society.*

ARTICLE VII.

MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS.

SECTION 1.—The annual [meeting] *Congress of the National Society* for the election of the General Officers and for the transaction of business, shall be held on the 30th day of April, or on the first day of May in every year. The [time] *hour* and place of such meeting shall be designated by the Board of Managers.

SECTION 2.—Special meetings *of the Congress* [shall] *may* be called by the President General, *and shall be called by him* when directed so to do by the Board of Managers, or whenever requested in writing so to do by [twenty-five or more members representing] at least five State Societies, on giving thirty days' notice specifying the time and place of such meeting and the business to be transacted.

SECTION 3.—The following shall be members of all such [general] *annual* or special meetings *of the Congress* and shall be entitled to vote therein:

(1). All the officers, *and the* ex-Presidents General [and the ex-Vice Presidents General] of the National Society;

(2). The President and Senior Vice President of each State Society.

(3). One delegate at large from each State Society;

(4). One delegate for every one hundred members of the Society within a State and for a fraction of fifty or over.

[The following named officials shall be Honorary Members of the National Society, provided they are eligible to membership in the Society, but shall not be entitled to vote:

(1). The President, the Vice-President, and the Chief Justice of the United States;

(2). The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Navy, of the United States;

(3). The Governors of the States and Territories of the United States;

AND ALSO the Senior officer of the Army, and the Senior officer of the Navy of the United States.]

[ARTICLE VII.

[BY-LAWS.

[The Board of Managers shall have authority to adopt and promulgate the By-Laws of the National Society, to prescribe the duties of the general officers, to provide the seal, and to designate the insignia.]

ARTICLE VIII.

AMENDMENTS.

[Amendments to this Constitution may be offered at any meeting of the National Society, but shall not be acted on until the next meeting. A copy of every proposed amendment shall be sent to each member, with a notice of the meeting at which the same will be acted upon, at least thirty days prior to said meeting.]

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any meeting of the Congress of the National Society, provided that thirty days' notice in writing of the proposed alterations or amendments shall be sent to the President of each State Society. A vote of two thirds of those present shall be necessary to its adoption.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

OFFERED AT THE PRO FORMA MEETING OF THE ANNUAL
CONGRESS, HELD MAY 1, 1893, 11 A. M., AT THE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT GENERAL, 15
BROAD STREET, NEW YORK.

[Mem.—The Articles and Sections referred to hereinbelow, are as numbered anew by the Committee on Revision in the revised draft of the Constitution, printed on the preceding pages of this document.]

SUBMITTED BY THE OREGON-WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS.

The object of this Society is to perpetuate the memory of the men of the American Revolution; to honor the noble women of that period from whom we descend; to revive the spirit of that time; to carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution of our Country, and the Injunctions of Washington's Farewell Address; to encourage historical research in our War of Independence; to collect records and relics of that time; to oppose by moral means the spread of anarchial ideas and lawlessness; to draw together in a firm and fraternal union the descendants of the Patriots of the Revolution, who are willing to cherish and maintain American Freedom and to see that "Our Government of the People, by the People, and for the People, shall not perish from the Earth."

ARTICLE III.

Add the following:—

“SECTION .—The official designation of the members of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution shall be ‘Compatriots.’”

ARTICLE IV.

NATIONAL AND STATE SOCIETIES.

SECTION 1.—The National Society shall embrace those members of the Societies of the Sons of the American Revolution, now existing or which may hereafter be established under this Constitution, whose applications have been approved by the General Committee.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS AND MANAGERS.

Add the following section :—

“SECTION .—The Registrar General of the Society shall receive a compensation of \$. . . per annum to be paid quarterly out of the general fund of the Society.”

OFFERED BY HENRY HALL, THE HISTORIAN GENERAL.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

Insert the following as Section 2, renumbering the remaining sections:—

SECTION 2.—Applications for membership may be made to any State Society, and shall be made in duplicate upon blank forms, prescribed by the General Board of Managers, and shall in each case set forth the name, occupation and residence of the applicant, his line of descent,

and the name, residence and services of his ancestor or ancestors in the Revolution, from whom he derives eligibility. The applicant shall make oath that the statements set forth in his application are true, to the best of his knowledge and belief. Upon the approval of an application by the State Society, to which it is made, one copy of the application shall be transmitted to the Registrar General of the National Society, who may examine further the eligibility of the applicant, and, in case of insufficient proof, report the fact to the General Board of Managers, who shall have power to order the return of the application for correction. Each State Society may also provide for life memberships by the payment into its treasury of a sum, in commutation of annual dues, of not less than fifty dollars.

ARTICLE IV.

NATIONAL AND STATE SOCIETIES.

Insert in Section 2, second line, after words "does not exist," the following :

"Or, in which an existing State Society has become inactive, or failed for one year to pay its annual dues to the National Society."

And at the end of same section add:

"Subject to the provisions of this Constitution."

In Section 3, after "Chapters within its own jurisdiction," add the words:

"And to endow such chapters with power to pass upon the question of the acceptability of applicants, living within their respective jurisdictions."

In Section 4, change the word "membership" to read, "accessions, deaths and dismissals, by name."

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS AND MANAGERS.

Insert the following at end of Section 2, in place of "of which Board seven shall constitute a quorum."

"Of the National Society, which Board shall have authority to adopt and promulgate the By-Laws of the National Society, to prescribe the duties of the General Officers, to provide the seal, to designate and make regulations for the issue of the insignia, and to transact the general business of the National Society during the intervals between the sessions of the Congress. Meetings of the General Board may be held, after not less than ten days' notice, at the call of the President General, or in case of his death, absence or inability at the call of the acting Senior Vice President General. Meetings shall be called in the manner above provided, at the written request of seven members of the Board, and, at all such meetings, seven shall constitute a quorum."

ARTICLE VII (present Constitution).

Take out entirely, because covered in amendment above.

OFFERED BY THE MISSOURI SOCIETY.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

In Section 1, change the age of applicants for membership from "21" to "18."

OFFERED BY GEORGE NORBURY MAC- KENZIE OF MARYLAND.

“ I would suggest an amendment to the Constitution, taken from that of the Cincinnati, to this effect: That the expenses of the delegates to the National Convention shall be borne by the respective State Societies. Some of our most useful men have declined to attend the National Conventions from the fact that they could not afford to lose the time and at the same time pay their expenses from their private funds.”

PRESENTED AT THE REQUEST OF DR.
THOMAS P. GRANT OF KENTUCKY.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

Change “ shall be ” to “ is.”

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS.

Change “ shall be ” in first line to “ are.”

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

In Section 1, after the words “ in good repute in the community,” insert:

“ Who may be acceptable to the State Society in whose jurisdiction he resides provided he is,” etc.

At end of same Section, add :

“ As would render him liable to imprisonment by the English Government for treason.”

Add the following to this article :

Section 4. No applicant for membership shall be elected by a State Society until his application has been accepted by the Board of Review, who shall pass upon the data submitted as a claim for membership, if, which is insufficient, the applicant shall be notified and allowed six months to perfect his claim.

ARTICLE IV.

NATIONAL AND STATE SOCIETIES.

In Section 3, the sentence on local chapters to be changed to read :

It shall establish local chapters within its own jurisdiction in every county, in which there are seven or more members, and where a local chapter is established, no person residing in that county shall be elected a member of the State Society except on the recommendation of the local Chapter.

In Section 4, after the words "setting forth," third line, insert :

"By name the additions, dismissals and deaths, and any other changes."

In Section 5, fourth line, after "be entitled," insert the words, "if he so elects." Change word "demission" to "demit."

And in seventh line, after word "residence," insert :

"Provided his membership shall lie in his old Society until he shall have been elected a member of the Society into whose jurisdiction he may have moved."

Insert as a new Section 6 the following :

"SECTION 6.—No State Society shall withdraw from the National Society so long as fifteen members thereof desire to continue as members of the National Society."

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS AND MANAGERS.

To Section 2 add the words :

"For the transaction of the ordinary business of the Society. Provided that no change of policy shall be

made without the consent of a majority of all the members of the Board, either in person or by proxy."

Amend Section 3 by striking out the words "from its own members."

Add the following :—

SECTION 4.—A Board of Review, consisting of the Registrar General, the Secretary General and the Historian General, shall pass upon all data submitted by applicants for membership. They shall also discharge any other duties which may be assigned to them by the Society or General Board of Managers.

OFFERED BY CHARLES W. HASKINS, THE TREASURER GENERAL.

ARTICLE VI.

DUES.

Change the words "twenty-five cents" to "fifty cents."

ARTICLE VII.

MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS.

In Section 3, 4th and 5th lines, strike out the words, "and the ex-Vice Presidents General."

OFFERED BY EDWARD H. HALL OF NEW YORK.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

Strike out Section 2 entirely.

In Section 3, first line, change the word "person" to "man."

OFFERED BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SOCIETY.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS.

Change the first line to read :

“ The objects of this Society are to promote,” etc.

In the fourth line, change “achieved the independence” to “secure the liberty.”

Insert in fourteenth line, after “American freedom :”

“ To foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.”

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

Change first four lines to read :

“SECTION I.—Any man shall be eligible to membership in this Society, who, being of the age of 21 years or over, acceptable to the State Society, and a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor of devoted and unfailing patriotism, who,” etc.

Strike out Sections 2 and 3.

ARTICLE IV.

Add to Section 1 the following :

“ And shall be the exclusive judge of the qualifications of membership in the Society, subject to the provisions of this Constitution.”

In Section 2, second line, after the words “does not exist,” add :

“Or has become inactive or failed to pay its dues for one year to the National Society.”

To the end of Section 2 add, “as herein defined.”

Section 3, change the first four lines, to read :

“SECTION 3.—Each State Society shall regulate all matters pertaining to its own affairs, subject to the provisions of this Constitution.”

Strike out, “and a man of honor.”

Section 4, change the first four lines, to read :

“Each State Society, on or before April 15th of each year, shall submit to the Annual Congress of the National Society a report, setting forth the accessions, deaths and demissions, by name, and the progress of the State Society.”

Section 5, add the following, at end :

“But no State Society shall admit a new member for an initiation fee less than five dollars, nor admit a new life member for less than fifty dollars.

ARTICLE V.

Add the following as Section 3.

SECTION 3.—The Board of Managers shall have authority to adopt and promulgate the By-Laws of the National Society and, in general, to manage the affairs of the National Society in the interim between the meetings of the annual Congress, and all action of the Board of Managers shall be legal and binding, unless disapproved by the next annual Congress.

Renumber Section 3 of the Committee's draft, and add at the end thereof the following :

All applications for membership in the National Society shall be referred to the Registrar General for approval as to eligibility before the applicant can receive his certificate of membership and insignia.

ARTICLE VI.

Change the words “ twenty-five cents ” to “ fifty cents.”

ARTICLE VII.

Section 1, change the last three lines to read :

— day of April in every year, unless the same shall fall on Sunday, in which event the meeting shall be held on the following Tuesday. The time and place of such meeting shall be designated by the Board of Managers or the Congress of the National Society.

Section 3, sub-heading 1, change the words “ ex-Vice-Presidents General ” to “ retiring Vice-Presidents General.”

Add to Section 3 the following :

5.—The delegates chosen to represent said Society in the annual Congress shall represent said Society in all special meetings until their successors are duly chosen.

ARTICLE VIII.

Strike out because transferred with additions to Article V.

OFFERED BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SOCIETY.

The District of Columbia Society also present the following draft of the Constitution as a substitute for the amendments above, and as a basis for consideration and amendment.

CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

PREAMBLE.

Whereas, as descendants of those Patriots who by many personal sacrifices and with untiring devotion to the cause which united them were enabled to secure their independence from the government of Great Britain, and who thus founded this Republic in which by the good providence of God we have been permitted to enjoy a free government, we do hereby associate ourselves in grateful remembrance of the triumphs of our ancestors and unite to ordain and establish a permanent association for the purposes and objects as hereinafter set forth ; to this end we pledge ourselves to be governed by the following Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE I.

TITLE.

This Association shall be known as the General Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS.

The objects of the Society are, to perpetuate the memory of the men who achieved the Independence of the American people by means of the War of the Revolution ; to impress upon the present and future generations the patriotic spirit which actuated our ancestors in establishing the Republic of the United States ; to inspire a more profound reverence for the principles of the free government founded by our forefathers at a sacrifice of life and property, by uniting in fellowship the descendants of those men, and in the celebration of the anniversaries of prominent events connected with the War of the American Revolution and in the acquisition and preservation of, and the marking by appropriate monuments, its historic places ; in the collection and preservation of private documents, relics, and individual records of service relating to the War of the American Revolution, and to aid in thus developing an enlightened public opinion and affording to young and old such advantages as shall develop in them the largest capacity for performing the duties of American citizens ; to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of Country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.

ARTICLE III.

ORGANIZATION.

The governing and legislative body of this Society shall be known as the Continental Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution, with power of self government, to make laws for the government of the General Society, to elect officers, defining and prescribing their powers and duties. This Congress shall be the body to which final appeals shall be made as it may direct or permit and shall have general control and supervision of the society in all its branches.

For convenience of administration and for the development of the social and patriotic features of the Society, State Societies with subordinate Chapters are established with such powers and duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Continental Congress.

ARTICLE IV.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any man shall be eligible for membership in the General Society, who being of the age of twenty-one years or over, and a citizen of good repute in the community in which he resides, is a lineal descendant of an ancestor who with unfailing patriotism rendered material aid, or personal service, in the cause of the American Independence either as a signer of the Declaration of Independence or of the Articles of Confederation ; or as a Member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence ; or as a Member of the Congress of the United Colonies or of a State Legislature ; or as a Civilian Officer of the Confederate Government, or of one of the States ; or as an Officer of the Army, including Regulars, Volunteers, Militia or Minute men, of the Continental Line or of one of the States ; or as an officer on board a duly recognized gunboat, privateer, or letter-of-

marque and reprisal, of the Confederated Government or of a State ; or as an enlisted or enrolled man, or as a volunteer, in either the said military or naval service, as hereinbefore described.

ARTICLE V.

ADMISSION.

Every application for membership must be endorsed by two members of the General Society, and be approved by a State Society upon the question of acceptability, and shall then be submitted to the Registrar-General, who shall report upon the question of eligibility to the General Board of Management, when the question of admission shall be voted upon by ballot, and if a majority of said Board approve such application, the applicant, after payment of the initiation fee, shall be enrolled as a member of the General Society, provided, that a letter of endorsement from one of the recommending members attested by the Secretary of a State Society shall accompany such application paper, and said applicant's name, together with those of his recommenders shall be published in official circular at least thirty days before action shall be taken by the said Board, provided further, that all who have been duly elected as Sons of the American Revolution prior to the date of the adoption of this Constitution shall be held and deemed to be Charter members of the General Society, and shall be so enrolled in the official records.

ARTICLE VI.

OFFICERS.

The Officers of the General Society shall be a President-General, five Vice Presidents-General, a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary-General, a Treasurer-General, a Registrar-General, a Historian-General and a Chaplain-General, who shall be elected by ballot by a majority vote of the

members present at the annual meeting of the Continental Congress, and shall hold office for one year from the date of said election or until their successors are duly elected and have qualified for office by formal acceptance of the same.

SECTION 2.—The said General Officers together with the Presidents of State Societies shall constitute a General Board of Management, of which Board seven shall constitute a quorum, and the President-General, ex-officio, shall be chairman of said Board.

SECTION 3.—The said Board of General Management shall approve all applications for membership in the General Society, and during the interim between the closing of the session of one Continental Congress and the assembling of the next succeeding one, shall have full power to manage the business of the General Society, in accordance with such by-laws or regulations as may have been enacted by a Continental Congress ; to fill vacancies in offices of the General Society until the next meeting of the Continental Congress, and in general to do all things necessary for the success of the General Society, subject, however, to the approval of the Continental Congress ; but all acts of the Board within the scope of their delegated authority shall be legal and binding until disapproved by the said Congress.

SECTION 4.—A General Executive Committee of five members, of which the President-General shall be Chairman, ex-officio, but not entitled to a vote in its meetings excepting in case of a tie vote, shall be elected by the General Board of Management from its members, and shall, in the interim between the meeting of the General Board of Management transact such business as may be delegated to it by the said Board and shall thus have and exercise the powers of the said Board under its direction.

ARTICLE VII.

CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

The Continental Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution shall be composed of the Officers of the General Society; the President and senior Vice President of each State Society; two delegates at large from each State Society; one delegate from each subordinate Chapter of a State Society having a membership of fifty, and one additional delegate therefrom for every one hundred members and for a portion of fifty or over, and all Ex-Presidents-General of the General Society who have served in said office for one full term.

ARTICLE VIII.

MEETINGS.

The annual meeting of the Continental Congress shall be held in the City of Washington, District of Columbia, on the 22d day of February, or in the event that said day come on Sunday, then the said meeting shall be held upon the following Tuesday; at this meeting the report of the General Board of Management shall be considered; election of officers shall be held and such business transacted as the good of the Society may require.

SECTION 2.—The annual meeting of the State Societies shall take place upon the day appointed therefor in their respective by-laws, which shall in each instance follow the date of the annual meeting of the General Society; special meetings for State Societies as well as provision for annual or special meetings of subordinate Chapters shall be wholly within the jurisdiction and approval of the State Societies.

SECTION 3.—The General Board of Management shall meet at least once every four months and at such other times as the exigencies of the Society may demand on call

of the President-General, and seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The President-General shall call meetings of the General Board of Management upon the written request of any seven members thereof, provided that the object of said special meeting is specifically stated and that not less than five days notice of the time and place of such meeting shall be given and the reason therefor.

ARTICLE IX.

STATE SOCIETIES AND THEIR SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS.

The State Societies shall regulate all matters respecting their own affairs and those of their subordinate Chapters in accordance with this Constitution and such by-laws or regulations as may be adopted from time to time by the Continental Congress, and may expel any member who by conduct unbecoming a gentleman, or who by the opposition to the declared objects and interests of the Society in general may render himself unworthy to continue in membership.

SECTION 2.—Whenever in any State in which a State Society does not exist, fifteen or more persons, duly qualified for membership in this Society, shall associate themselves as a State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and shall organize in accordance with this Constitution, they may be admitted by the General Board of Management to the General Society and shall thereafter have exclusive local jurisdiction in the State in which they are organized, subject to the limitations imposed by this Constitution.

SECTION 3.—The Secretary of a State Society shall transmit to the Secretary-General such reports as may be essential for historical or statistical purposes of the General Society.

SECTION 4.—Whenever a member of the General Society who has affiliated with a State Society or one of its subordinate Chapters, changes his residence from the jurisdiction of a State Society of which he is a member, to that of another State Society, he shall be entitled to a certificate of honorable transfer from his own State Society to that in whose jurisdiction he has changed his residence. Provided, that each State Society shall retain full control as to the admission of members by transfer.

SECTION 5.—When ten members of the General Society are living in one locality in which there has not been established a Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, upon petition of the same to their State Society, they shall be accorded full authority by the said State Society to organize a Chapter and to enact by-laws for their own government which shall be in harmony with the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Society, and of the State Society under whose immediate authority the said Chapter shall exist.

ARTICLE X.

INITIATION, DUES AND LIABILITIES.

Each application for membership in the General Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, filed subsequent to the adoption of this Constitution, shall be accompanied with the sum of five dollars as the initiation fee; all members of the Sons of the American Revolution prior to the date of adoption of this Constitution shall not be required to pay any additional initiation fee, but shall be held to be Charter members as hereinbefore provided.

SECTION 2.—Each State Society shall pay to the Treasurer-General of the General Society on or before the opening of the annual session of the Continental Congress the sum of fifty cents, as a per capita tax upon its member-

ship who are in good standing upon the first day of February in each and every year, in order that representation in said Continental Congress be secured and said right be claimed.

SECTION 3.—The payment at one time of fifty dollars shall constitute a life membership and cause an exemption of the further payment of dues.

SECTION 4.—All initiation fees payable or life membership payments which shall be made subsequent to the adoption of this Constitution, shall be divided equally between the General Society and the State Society which is directly interested in the proposed membership.

SECTION 5.—All members of the General Society, who, subsequent to the adoption of this Constitution fail to affiliate with a State Society, and in writing so inform the Secretary-General of the General Society shall, thereafter, on or before the 22nd day of February in each and every year pay to the Treasurer General of the General Society the sum of ten dollars as dues.

SECTION 6.—A member who shall remain in arrears for dues for a period of three months, whether in the General Society, a State Society or a subordinate Chapter, after notice for the payment of the same has been sent, shall be dropped from the rolls, provided, however, that final action shall not be taken until after two notices of arrears shall have been given and a hearing has been granted.

SECTION 7.—The expenses of the General Society, including the expenses of the Continental Congress shall be borne by the General Society by assessment pro rata upon its membership, not to exceed, however, fifty cents per member.

SECTION 8.—No debt shall be incurred or a liability assumed excepting for the current ordinary expenses of the General Society, nor shall any project or plan requiring the

expenditure of money be entered into by which the General Society shall be held responsible, except by a three-fourths vote of the Board of Management.

ARTICLE XI.

DIPLOMA OF MEMBERSHIP.

Every Diploma of Membership in the General Society shall be engrossed upon parchment and be signed by the President-General and Registrar-General and have the impress of the seal of the General Society thereto affixed. The President and Secretary of the State Society shall countersign the said Diploma of Membership and affix the impress of the seal of their Society in attestation of their signatures.

ARTICLE XII.

ALTERNATE DELEGATES.

Each State Society and their subordinate Chapters shall, at least 30 days prior to the 22nd day of February, in each and every year, elect an alternate delegate for each delegate by whom they are entitled to be represented in the next ensuing session of the Continental Congress, which said election shall immediately be officially communicated to the Secretary-General of the General Society, and said alternate delegates upon the filing of their credentials prior to the opening session of the Continental Congress to which they have been so elected, shall have their names entered upon the roll of said Congress by the Secretary General and be thereupon accorded the full privileges of the floor when said Congress is in session; provided, however, that said alternate delegates shall not be entitled to a vote upon any question, excepting in the event of the absence of the dele-

gate, to whose place as an alternate he may succeed, shall have been announced at the first roll call of a daily session of the Congress.

SECTION 2.—The senior member of a State delegation shall be determined by his rank of office in his State Society, and the seniority of alternates by their order in election.

ARTICLE XIII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Whenever the word "State" occurs in this Constitution, it shall be held to include within its meaning the District of Columbia and the Territories of the United States.

ARTICLE XIV.

COAT-OF-ARMS.

ARTICLE XV.

SEAL.

ARTICLE XVI.

INSIGNIA.

ARTICLE XVII.

AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any meeting of the Continental Congress, provided that thirty days prior thereto the amendments in question have been

duly considered by the General Board of Management at a second meeting following the one upon which the same were first presented for their initial consideration, and provided further, that a copy of the said amendments had been sent to each member of the Continental Congress, at least thirty days prior to the date of the meeting of said Congress, and a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting of said Congress, shall be necessary for the adoption of any amendments to the Constitution.







0 011 697 797 7 ●